

# Designing a Family Story

## for your non-genealogist relatives

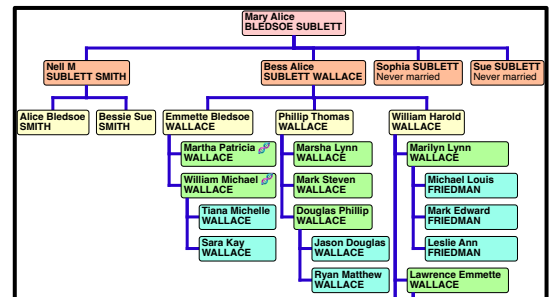
Most of your relatives won't be terribly interested in a deep dive into the nuts and bolts of your family history, so how do you let them know the stories without a lot of eye-rolling? Give them the means to picture some of the realities of daily life in your ancestors' time.

Extended material and documents probably wouldn't be particularly interesting to non-genealogists – also known as most of your family members. Consider possible attention span and adjust the amount of content that you cover. If interest is generated, you can always provide further details. Here are some ideas for content and modest production:

### Elements of your story:

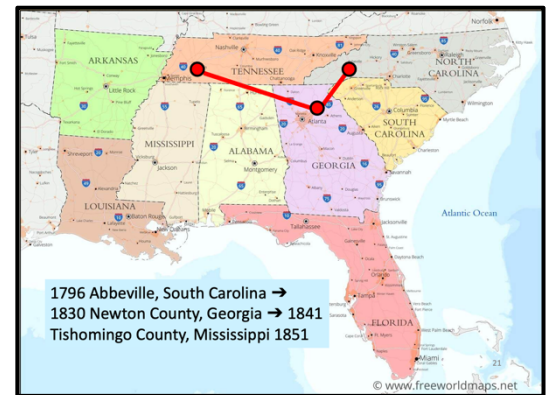
#### Family Charts (include your audience)

- Include a chart showing your relationship (and that of your audience) to the person whose story you are telling. Saying that the person is your 3G grandfather is much more powerful if you show it visually.
- Include a chart showing the people mentioned in your story, especially the nuclear family. Highlight your direct ancestors.



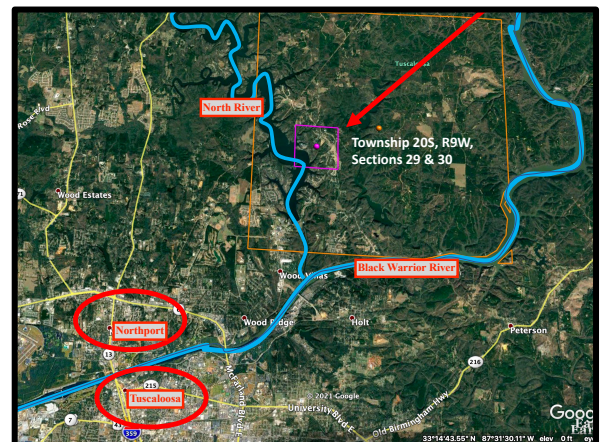
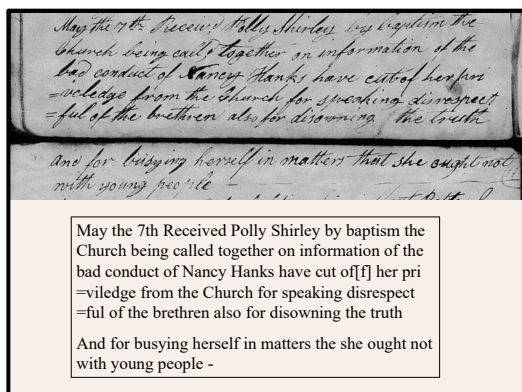
#### Maps

- Include maps showing where the ancestors lived. Don't assume that everyone knows where Wolf River, Tennessee, is located.
- If land is included, map the land and show that. Find the land today and show what's there now.
- If a journey is part of the story, show that on a map.



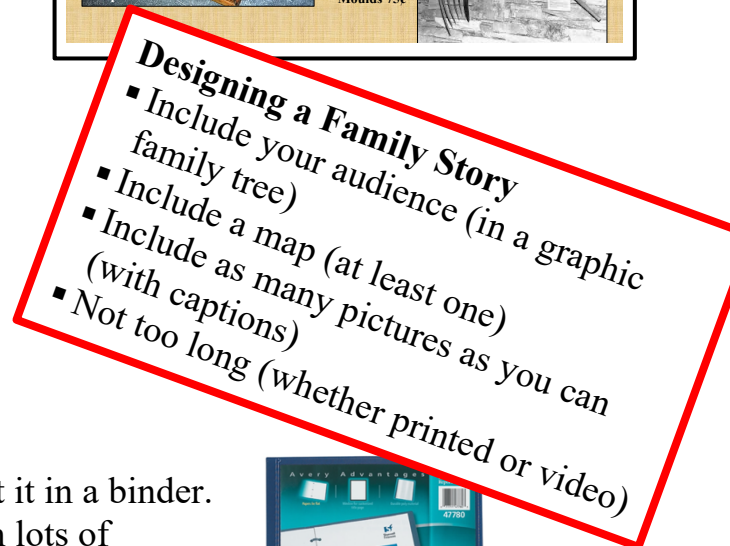
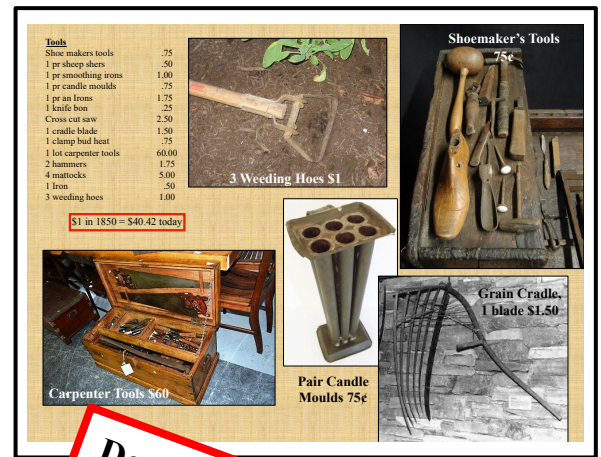
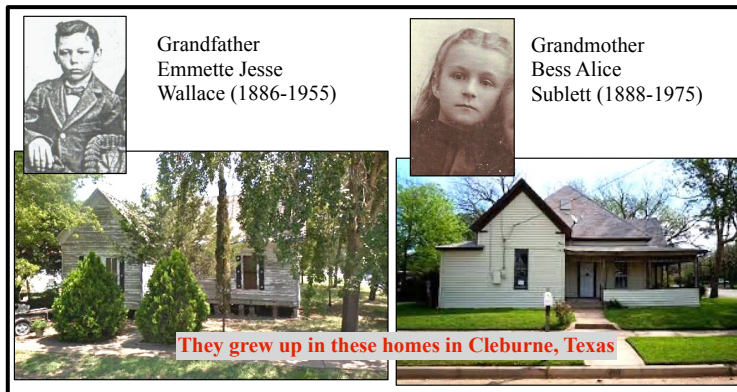
#### Sample Documents (with Transcriptions)

- Include a few sample handwritten documents; be sure to include the transcriptions!



## Pictures and Images

- Include captions explaining who and what and how the image is related to your story.
- Find sample, period-appropriate pictures of items relative to the family occupation or economic status, and tell what the price would be in today's dollars. Inflation calculator at <https://www.officialdata.org>
- Use actual and representative pictures of your ancestors and the area and home(s) where they lived.



## Modest production ideas

- Create your story in Word or Pages; print it and put it in a binder.
  - Keep it short: Limited # of pages (20 pages with lots of pictures)
  - Put the pages in sheet protectors
  - Try Lay Flat Report Covers
  - Save it as a PDF and put it on a thumb drive or email it to your relatives
- Make a video
  - Create your story in PowerPoint or Keynote
  - Keep it short (limit about 10 minutes)
  - Record the story in a video using that feature in Zoom or PowerPoint or Keynote
- Upload to YouTube
  - Free
  - Keep it short (limit about 10 minutes)
  - Send the link to your relatives

